Letter to Dr. H.A. Morgan from Woodlief Thomas

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Federal Reserve Board

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June 8, 1923.

Dr. H. A. Morgan, President,
University of Tennessee,
Knoxville, Tenn.

Dear Dr. Morgan:

Recently I have received a letter from one of the trustees of the University requesting my opinions, as a former student, of certain questions which have arisen in the institution during the past year. Both because of my former connection with the school and because of the relationship which still exists between members of my family and the University, I am always interested in its welfare.

The problems which have arisen present some very interesting questions, but I hesitate to express any opinions without further knowledge of the facts. It does not seem to me possible, on the face of it, that a professor should be discharged merely because he recommended that the students read such a harmless book as Robinson's "The Mind in the Making", and I should like to know if there were not further reasons for such action.

Another question which was raised was the suspension of the publication of the student magazine because it contained a poem which was considered unsuitable by the Administrative Council. It is not clear in my mind as to whether there is any direct connection between the discharge of Dr. Sprouls and the suspension of "The Angwump", unless it should lie in the criticism of the authorities of an autocratic attitude.

There seems to be a secret student publication called "The Truth" which further complicates the problem. My information regarding this paper is rather vague and I should like to know more about it.
Although my opinions on these questions would of course carry very little weight in any action that may be taken, because of the general interest not only in the University of Tennessee but throughout the country, which is attached to them, I should like to be informed as to the facts in order that I may formulate some opinions. I shall appreciate any information which you may be able to give me. With kindest personal regards and with best wishes for the success of the University, I am

Very truly yours,

Woodlief Thomas

Please address reply to -
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